



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-0001

MCO 4731.1A
LPP-3
19 Nov 90

MARINE CORPS ORDER 4731.1A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: OIL ANALYSIS PROGRAM FOR GROUND EQUIPMENT

Ref: (a) NAVMATINST 4731.1A of 27 Jan 81
(b) TI 4731-14/1A

1. Purpose. To define objectives, establish policies, and assign responsibilities for Marine corps participation in both the Joint Oil Analysis Program (JOAP) and the Navy Oil Analysis Program (NOAP) for ground equipment.

2. Cancellation. MCO 4731.1.

3. General

a. Background

(1) Oil analysis evaluates used oils and other fluids to determine both their condition and that of the mechanical systems they lubricate. Through spectrometric and physical properties testing by certified JOAP laboratories, system wear recommendations for either maintenance action or lubrication change.

(2) The JOAP is an agreement among the Army, Navy, and Air Force to integrate and standardize policies and procedures, analytical techniques, and laboratory services. Reference (a) establishes the NOAP and directs the Commandant to institute a similar program in the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps is an associate member of the JOAP coordinating group which implements and monitors JOAP activities.

(3) Reference (b) provides guidance on oil sampling and recordkeeping requirements, identifies JOAP laboratories, and lists equipment and components enrolled in the program.

b. Laboratory Support. Although testing services are available through all certified JOAP laboratories, Army laboratories are preferred because they provide both spectrometric and physical property testing. Laboratory services are provided at no cost to Marine Corps units.

19 Nov 90

- c. Objectives. To improve readiness by detecting impending mechanical system failures and save money by changing lubricants on an as required basis.

4. Policy

- a. Participation in the program is mandatory for Marine Corps ground equipment listed in reference (a).
- b. Access to oil analysis (JOAP) laboratories will be coordinated by major commands (Division, Wing, FSSG, Base, etc.).
- c. Oil analysis monitors will be appointed at all units and levels of command with equipment enrolled in the program.
- d. Equipment deployed or in storage for more than 90 days is exempt from the program.
- e. Oil sampling valves will be installed, as required or when practical, on vehicles or equipment enrolled in the program.
- f. The program will be suspended for units in combat.
- g. Laboratory recommendations will be followed.

5. Responsibilities

- a. Commandant of the Marine Corps. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics is program manager and the Marine Corps point of contact to the JOAP Coordinating Group.

- b. Major Commands (Division, Wing, FSSG, Base, etc.)

- (1) Appoint a JOAP monitor to administer the program throughout the command.

- (2) Establish local policies and procedures to implement the oil analysis program.

- (3) Coordinate the local program with the servicing JOAP laboratory.

- c. Unit Commanders

- (1) Appoint a unit monitor to locally administer the program.

- (2) Ensure that eligible ground equipment is enrolled in the program per reference (b).

- d. Unit Monitors

- (1) Provide required unit and equipment data to the servicing oil analysis laboratory.

- (2) Submit oil samples on the same day they are taken.
- (3) Train personnel within the unit on proper sampling procedures.
- (4) Ensure that sufficient sampling supplies are available.
- (5) Ensure compliance with laboratory recommendations.
- (6) Reconcile lab reports with local records.
- (7) Report errors or problems to the major command oil analysis monitor.
- (8) Notify the servicing laboratory of any serial number or equipment density changes or equipment deployment.

e. Intermediate Maintenance Activities. Accept equipment evacuated for repair based on oil analysis recommendations and comply with the information requirements of the servicing JOAP laboratory.

f. Directors, Marine Corps Service Schools. Incorporate oil analysis sampling procedures and Marine Corps policy into student curriculums.

g. Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases. Publish lubrication, modification, supply, and technical instructions, as required, to support and sustain the program.

6. Action. Marine Corps units will comply with the contents of this Order and reference (b).

7. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



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for Installations and Logistics

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